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Chief, Bonn Liaison Section

27 August 1952

Chief of Station, Frankfurt

Operational

Biographic Data Report on ex-General Reinhard GEHLEN

1. Pursuant to HICOM Biographic section's request we are forwarding a biographic data report on GEHLEN.
2. As will be noted the report is extremely brief and sketchy. We have deliberately refrained from writing a full analysis of the man.

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240. GEHLEN

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Biographic Data Report on ex-General Reinhard GEHLEN

GEHLEN, Reinhard (ex-Brigadier General)

Personal data: Born 3 April 1902 in Erfurt, Thuringia. Protestant.
Married; four children.

Education: Graduated from Humanistisches Gymnasium, Breslau, 1920.

Languages: English, some French.

Career:

1920 Entered military service (artillery).
1923 Commissioned Second Lieutenant.
1928 Promoted to First Lieutenant.
1933-1935 General Staff Academy, Berlin.
1934 Promoted to Captain.
1935-1938 General Staff assignment.
1938-1939 Battery commander.
1939 Promoted to Major.
Chief of Staff, 213th Infantry Division.
1939-1940 Chief of Fortifications Section, General Staff.
1940 Adjutant to General HALDER, Chief of General Staff.
1941 Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.
1940-1942 Section Chief in Department for Plans and Operations.
1942 Promoted to Colonel.
1942-1945 Chief of Department Fremde Heere Ost.
1944 Promoted to Brigadier General.
1945 Dismissed by special order of HITLER on 9 April 1945.
American PW, 27 May 1945.

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Remarks:

Reinhard GEHLEN was born the son of German Army First Lieutenant Walter OEHLEN. His father left the military service a few years after Reinhard was born and became a moderately successful business man, and spent the majority of his years as Director of a Publishing House in Breslau until his death in 1943.

Up until 1942 Reinhard GEHLEN followed a routine career pattern similar to other professional army officers. His promotions can be considered consistent with other officers. His highest tactical command function was that of a company commander.

In April of 1942 GEHLEN, then a Colonel, was assigned to take over the intelligence group "Freies Heere Ost" or "Foreign Armies East" under the High Command of the Army. His mission with this unit at that time was to obtain all possible intelligence material dealing with the military, political and economic situation existing in the USSR and the south eastern European countries. He gave an able demonstration of himself until in March/April 1945 he was relieved of his post upon the personal order of HITLER.

GEHLEN reportedly has never been a member of any political party or faction. He has a fear and hatred for communism. According to the 7th Army interrogation report dated 21 June 1945 GEHLEN was reported to anticipate a Russian allied conflict.

He professes to stand for a united Western Europe built around a Franco-German Axis, for collaboration with England and the United States, for social reform but not socialism, for the review of such occupation and post-war "injustices" as War Criminal Trials and some aspects of denazification. He does not favor the remilitarization of Germany, except as part of Western European Defense. In the intelligence field he believes that a small country such as Germany should have a unified service. []